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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE **APR 2006**

In re U.S. Patent Application
Gerhard SCHWENK et al.

Examiner: Unassigned

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT BEFORE EXAMINATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination of the above-identified application that accompanies this paper, please amend the application as shown below.

AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The amendments to the claims appear in the following pages under the heading "LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS". The claim listing replaces all previous versions of the claims presented in this application, and indicates any currently presented amendments and the status of each of the listed claims.

The amendments to the claims of this application, which originated in a foreign country, are submitted before examination on the merits and are not intended to have a narrowing effect for the purpose of patentability, but rather are made for one or more of the following reasons: (i) to remove drawing reference numerals unnecessary under U.S. practice; (ii) to remove or reduce multiple dependent claims to reduce the filing fee; (iii) to revise the original language originating in a foreign country to better conform to customary English usage and style for U.S. patent claiming; (iv) to revise original non-U.S. claim terminology into more appropriate English claim terms having a scope of meaning consistent with the original intended language in preparation for U.S. examination; (iv) to remove limitations having an